



# **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Alaska State Plan**

*Presented by:*

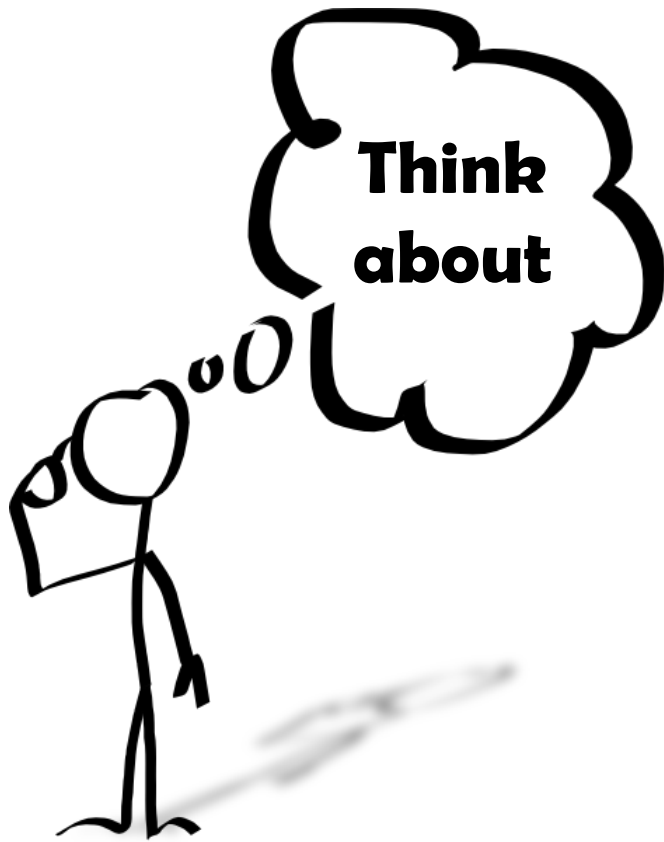
*Alaska Department of Education and Early Development*

*Dr. Susan McCauley, Education Policy Coordinator*



## Objectives

- Think about what ESSA is & what ESSA isn't
- Understand three key requirements for ESSA
- Discuss several key components for Alaska;



**What makes a great, public school system  
for Alaska's students?**

# Alaska's Vision & Mission for Public Education

## *Vision Statement*

All students can:

- Succeed in their education and work,
  - Shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves,
  - Exemplify the best values of society, and
  - Be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them.
- AS 14.03.015

## *Mission Statement*

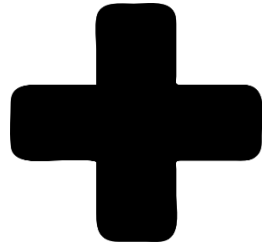
An excellent education for every student every day.





## Strategic Objectives

1. Increase student achievement
2. Inspire community ownership of educational excellence
3. Modernize the education system
4. Ensure excellent educators
5. Promote safety and well-being







# Primary Methods for Stakeholder Involvement



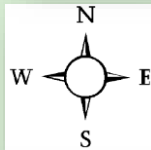
Advisory Committee



Focus Groups



Work Groups



State Leadership



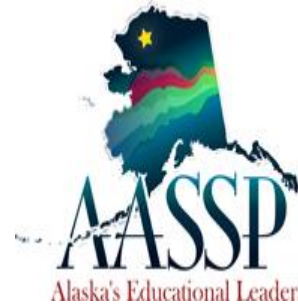
Public at large



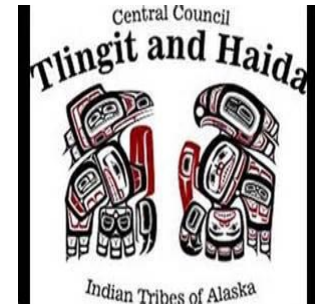
# Focus Group Examples



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference



Alaska  
**PTA**



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Alaska Department of  
Education & Early Development

HOME PARENTS & STUDENTS TEACHING & LEARNING FORMS & GRANTS FINANCE & FACILITIES STATISTICS & REPORTS ABOUT DEED

STATE OF ALASKA > DEED > HOME

## Preparing College, Career, & Culturally Ready Graduates

STANDARDS

ASSESSMENTS

ACCOUNTABILITY

ESSA

PARENTS & COMMUNITY

SUPPORT

Click on star for information and resources.

James K. Fields  
STATE BOARD CHAIR

Dr. Michael Johnson  
COMMISSIONER

# ESSA Website

*education.alaska.gov/akessa*

State of Alaska myAlaska My Government Resident Business in Alaska Visiting Alaska State Employees

Alaska Department of  
Education & Early Development

HOME PARENTS & STUDENTS TEACHING & LEARNING FORMS & GRANTS FINANCE & FACILITIES STATISTICS & REPORTS ABOUT EED

STATE OF ALASKA > EED > EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Fact Sheets FAQs Timeline

Overview Stakeholder Engagement Standards & Assessments Accountability School Support & Improvement Draft State Plan

### View the ESSA State Plan Webinar Presentation

To view the ESSA State Plan webinar presentation by EED visit the Public at Large section under the Stakeholder Engagement tab.

### Overview

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by Congress and signed by the President in December 2015. ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and will replace No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Alaska's current NCLB Flexibility Waiver. Alaska's transition to, and implementation of, ESSA will be a thorough and thoughtful process informed by meaningful consultation with state and local education stakeholders.

ESSA requires that State Educational Agencies (SEAs) develop a State Plan addressing three components: Standards and Assessments; School, District, and State Accountability Systems; and School Support and Improvement.

SEAs must develop state plans "with timely and meaningful consultation with the Governor, members of the State legislature and State board of education, local educational agencies, representatives of Indian tribes located in the State, teachers, principals, other school leaders, charter school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, administrators, other staff, and parents." (Every Student Succeeds Act, Sec. 1111)

Federal regulations and guidance are being developed on an ongoing basis by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to direct and support implementation of ESSA.

To facilitate the transition to ESSA, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (EED) is conducting a review of the work required to fully implement the new law. As with implementation of any program of such significance and complexity, changes will over the course of months and even years. Some changes were initiated immediately upon signing, some will be implemented relatively quickly, and others will be finalized over the course of the next two years only upon receipt of additional federal regulations and guidance, and collaborative input by state and local education stakeholders.

### Timeline and Transition: ED Established Milestones

- ED has a year from the date of enactment (December 10, 2015) to issue final regulations. View updates from [ED](#).
  - [ED Press Release on Proposed ESSA Regulations \(5.26.16\)](#)
  - [Read ED's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Accountability, State Plans, and Data Reporting \(5.31.16\)](#)
    - [Read EED's Comments on Proposed Regulations: Accountability, State Plans, and Data Reporting \(submitted 7.28.16\) \(pdf\)](#)
  - [ED Summary: Proposed Regulations on Accountability, State Plans, and Data Reporting under ESSA](#)
  - [ED Accountability Chart: Then and Now \(NCLB to ESSA\)](#)

Back to



# ESSA Overview

*A 30,000 foot view*

# Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)



## **ESEA Passed in 1965**

*Goal: To improve the quality of education for low income students*

*Reauthorized periodically by Congress*

## **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**

2002 - 2015



## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

December 10, 2015





## ESSA Options for States

- Returns more control to the states, particularly in developing accountability systems and supports for school identification
- Removes highly qualified requirements for teachers and does not require student achievement data as part of educator evaluations
- Restricts federal authority in many areas



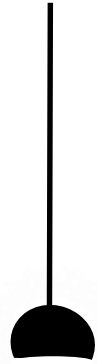
## Timeline for ESSA Implementation

- ESEA Flexibility Waivers ended August 1, 2016
- 2016-2017 school year – formula programs (Title I, etc.) same as under NCLB
- 2017-2018 school year – implementation of ESSA plans
- December, 2016 - final regulations from US Department of Education expected
- July, 2017 - State Plan submission



# ESSA State Plan

## Three Key Elements



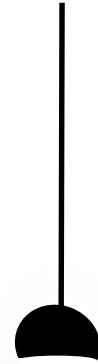
**# 1**

Standards &  
Assessments



**# 2**

Accountability



**# 3**

School  
Support &  
Improvement

# Standards

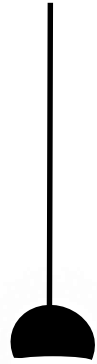
- Challenging academic content standards in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science
- Aligned with college entrance requirements at public system for higher education and relevant CTE standards
- Alaska adopted standards in ELA and mathematics in June 2012
- Alaska's science standards and grade level expectations were last revised in 2006

# Content Assessments

- Assessments required in ELA, mathematics, and science annually
- ELA & math in grades 3-8, at least once in grades 9-12
- Science at least once in grades 3-5, 6-9, & 10-12
- Alaska currently administers assessments yearly
  - ELA and mathematics in grades 3-10
  - Science in grades 4, 8, and 10
- In process of selecting new assessment

# ESSA State Plan

## Three Key Elements



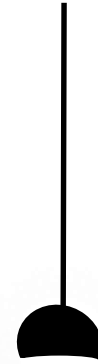
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# State Accountability Systems

- State determines accountability system within ESSA requirements:
  - “Meaningfully differentiate” schools
  - Have ambitious state-designed long-term goals for all students and subgroups
  - Include required indicators
  - Include additional indicators at state’s discretion
  - Weigh the academic measures more heavily than the other indicators
  - Include participation rate of at least 95%

# ESSA Accountability Indicators

## Required indicators:

- Academic achievement as measured by proficiency on state assessments
- Another measure of academic achievement (such as student growth)
- High school graduation rate

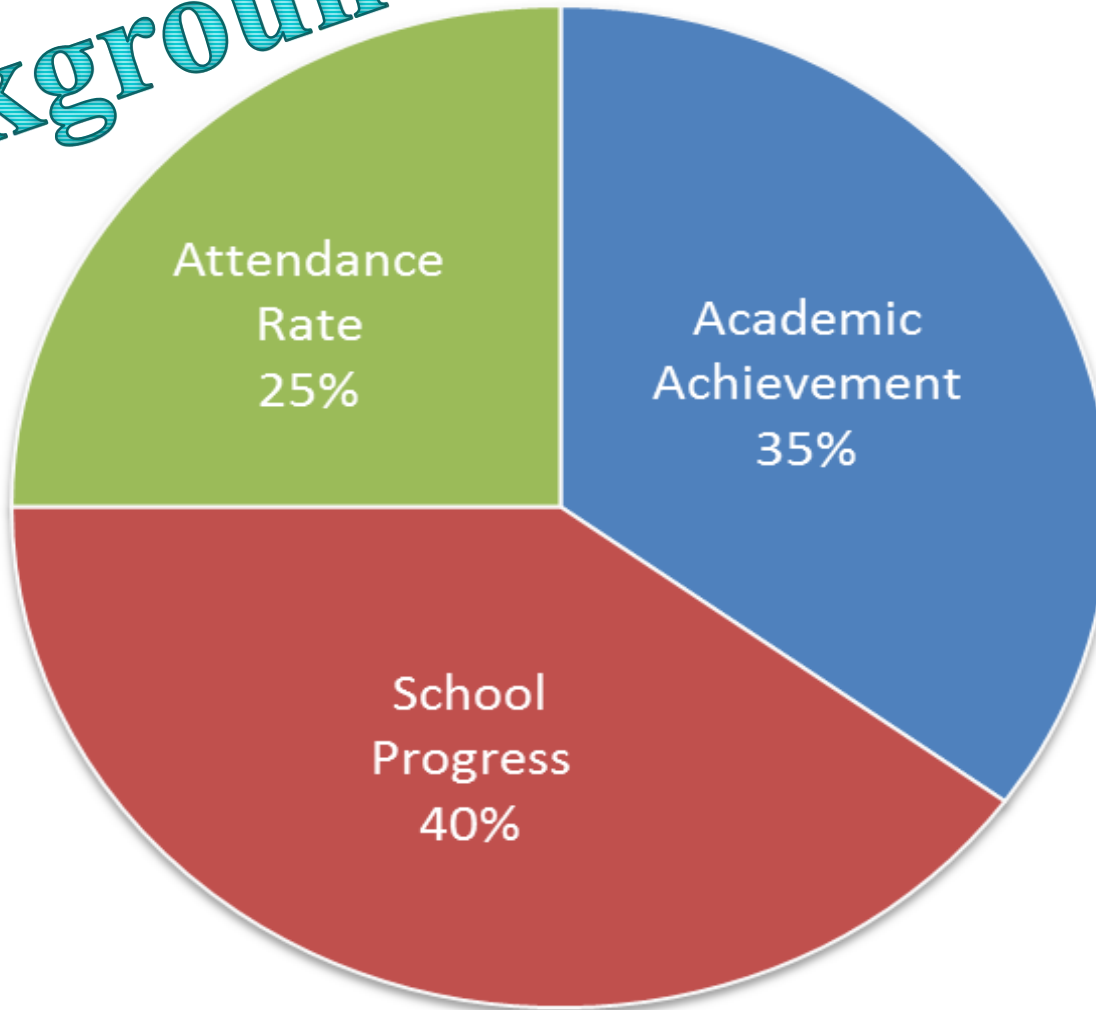
## New indicators:

- A measure of school quality or student success
- Measure of progress in learning English for English Learners



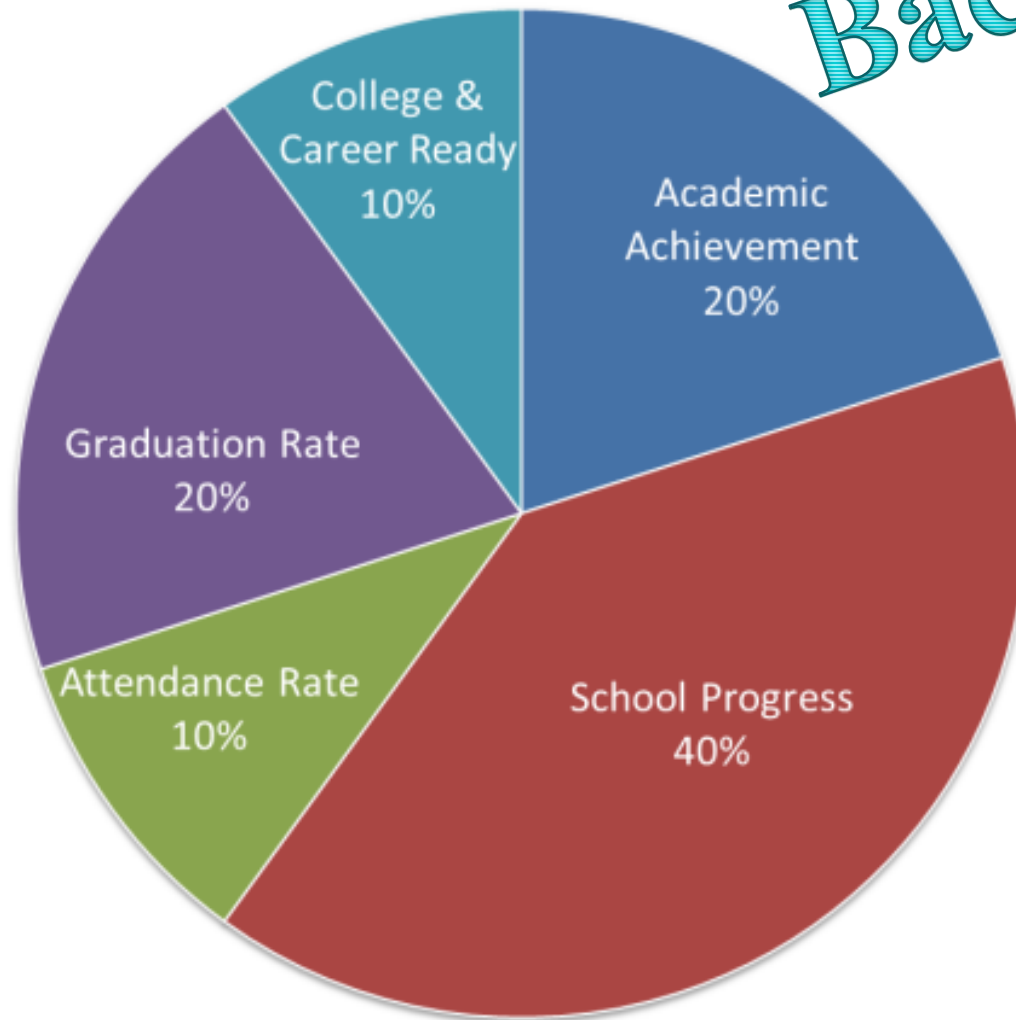
# ASPI Elementary/Middle School Indicator Weightings for Students in Grades K-8

Background








# ASPI High School Indicator Weightings for Students in Grades 9-12

Background



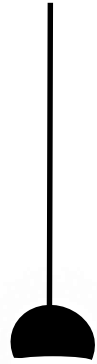
# Star Ratings

ASPI Points	Number of Stars
94 – 100	
85 – 93.99	
65 – 84.99	
55 – 64.99	
0 – 54.99	

Background

# ESSA State Plan

## Three Key Elements



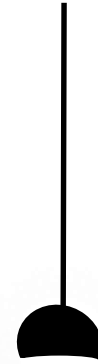
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# Identification of Schools

- States must identify schools that require support:
  - For **comprehensive support**:
    - Schools that are in the lowest performing 5% of schools
    - High schools with graduation rates less than 67%
  - For **targeted support**:
    - Any school in which a subgroup of students is consistently underperforming
- ESSA doesn't required specific improvement **strategies**
- Strategies must be **evidence-based**



# High School Assessments



# What does ESSA say?

- ELA and math at least once in high school
  - Science once in grades 10-12
- High school grades that can be tested now include 9-12
- Alaska has tested in grades 9 and 10 on the ELA/math assessment since 2002
  - Science tested in grade 10

# Considerations – measure growth?

- Measuring growth has been indicated as important by stakeholders
- If test in grade 9, can measure growth directly from grade 8
- If test in grade 10 or 11, possible to calculate growth, but need to look at technical questions



# Considerations - measure college- or career-readiness?

- Repeal of college- or career-ready assessment (CCRA) requirement
- If test in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> only, may be possible to offer CCRA as option in grade 11
- If test in grade 11 only, state test could possibly measure college or career readiness

# More Considerations

- At what grade will high school students most successfully test?
- What grade will give the most useful information?
- Varied course trajectories for math: 10<sup>th</sup> grade?
- If state test in 9<sup>th</sup> and/or 10<sup>th</sup>, may be possible to offer ACT, SAT, WorkKeys, or other CCRA choice in grade 11
- Testing in one high school grade minimizes testing time

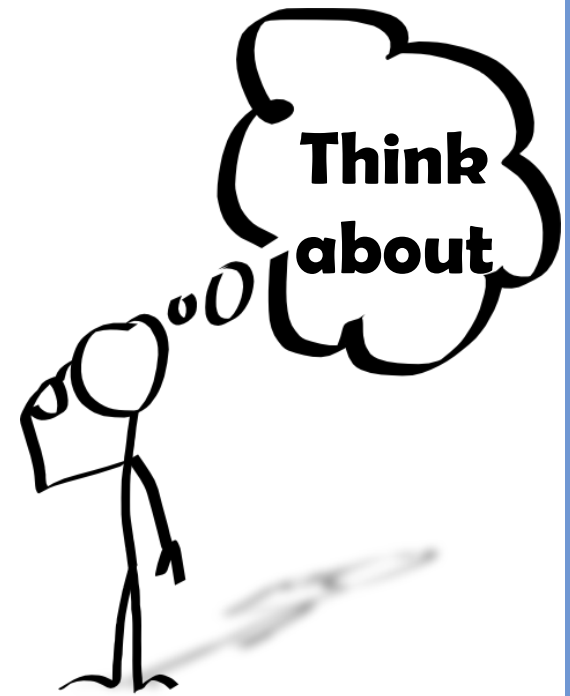
# Use of ACT or SAT?

- Use for both assessment requirement and college admissions/planning?
- Equity for students with disabilities or English learners in availability of accommodations and/or equity in not having a college-reportable score?
- Cultural relevance?
- What about career readiness assessment for non-college bound students?
- Most appropriate for grade 11?



- Discuss:

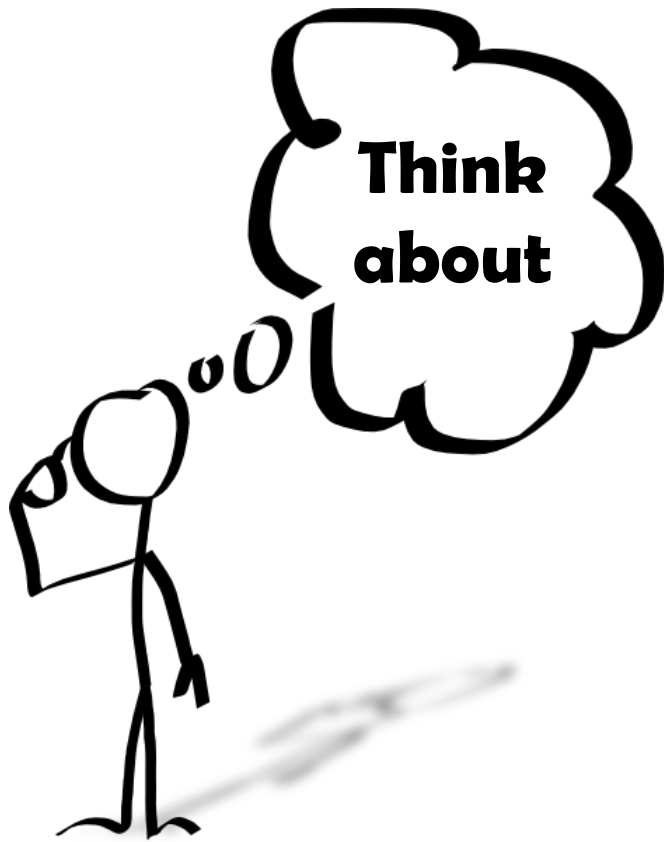
- In how many high school grades should Alaska test?
- If Alaska tests in only one high school grade, what grade should it be?
- Why?
- Should Alaska consider using the ACT or SAT in 11<sup>th</sup> grade to meet the high school assessment requirement? Why?





# School Quality and Student Success Indicators

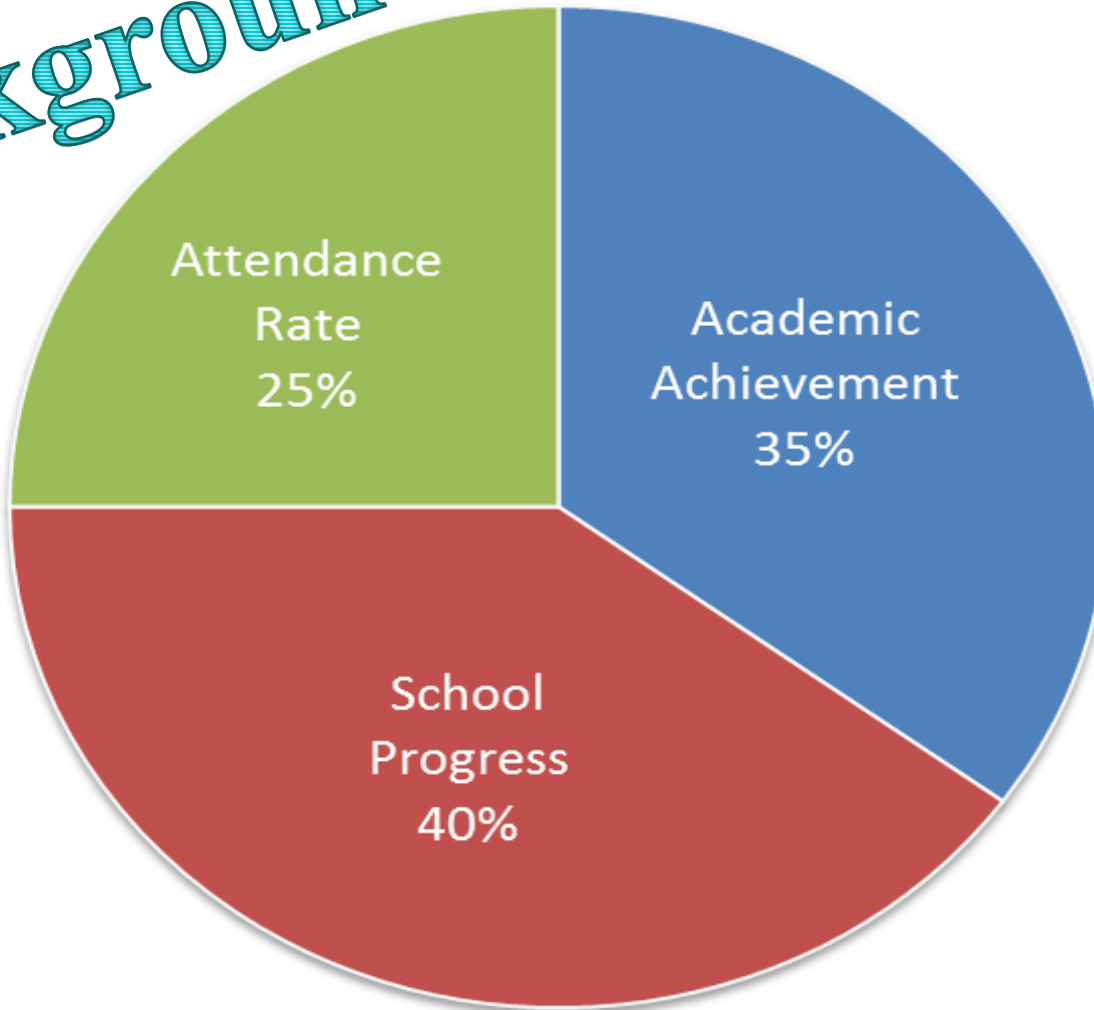




**What makes a great, public school system  
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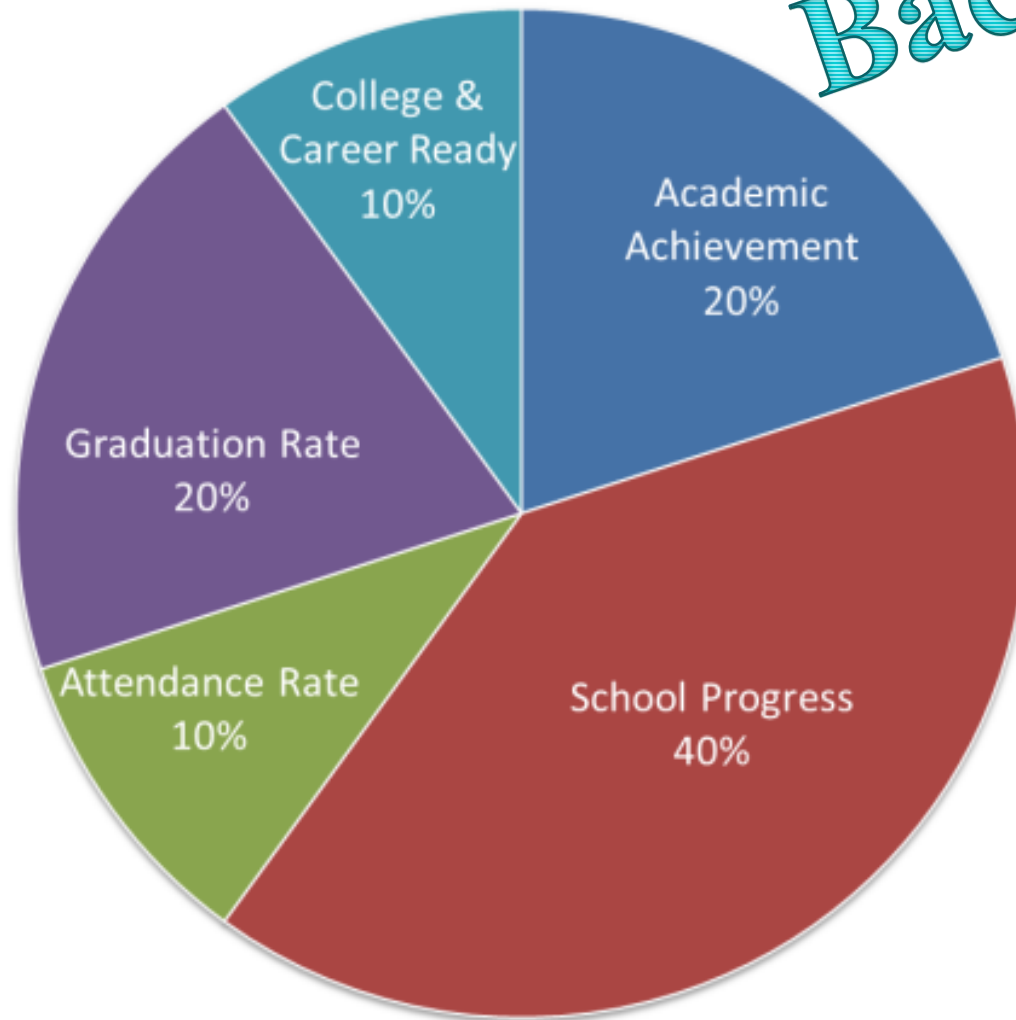
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Background

# What does ESSA say?

## Required indicators

1. Academic achievement as measured by proficiency on annual assessments
2. Another measure of academic achievement (such as student growth)
3. For high schools, graduation rates
4. Progress of English Learners  
*NEW*
5. A measure of school quality or student success *NEW*

# Examples of School Quality or Student Success

## Examples

- Student engagement
- Educator engagement
- Access to and completion of advanced courses

## Examples

- Postsecondary readiness
- School climate and safety
- Any other indicator that meets the requirement





# Measurement possibilities...

- **Student Engagement**

- Surveys of student engagement at the school level

- **Educator Engagement**

- Staff surveys or staff retention rates

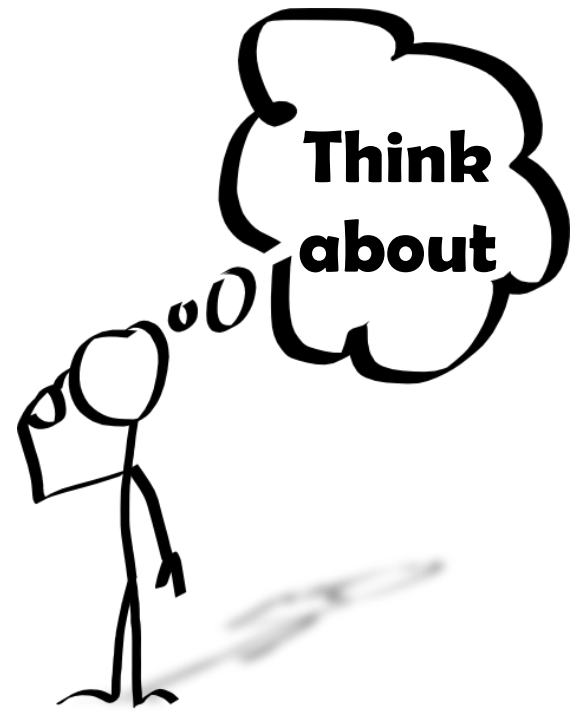
- **School Climate & Safety**

- School climate surveys from students, parents, and/or staff members
- Suspension rates, attendance/absences

# Measurement possibilities...

- **Access to and completion of advanced courses**
  - Advanced Placement (AP)
  - dual enrollment courses
  - industry level certificates
  - internship completion
- **Post-secondary Readiness**
  - SAT/ACT Scores
  - Passage of end of course exams
  - Proportion of students with access to full curriculum
- **Other ideas**
  - Measures of skills needed for career or college – resilience, tenacity, etc.
  - Attendance rates

- Discuss:
  - What measure and measurement could be used in Alaska for the measure of school quality and student success indicators?



# DEED ESSA Development Team & Roles



Dr. Michael Johnson  
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ESSA Project Manager



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Acting TLS Director



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Standards & Assessments  
Lead



Dr. Susan McCauley  
Stakeholder Contact/  
Policy Coordinator



Brian Laurent  
Accountability Lead



Deb Riddle  
School Support/Title III Lead



Todd Brocious  
Title IVA 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Schools Lead



Cecilia Miller  
Title IIA Teachers & School  
Leaders Lead



Sam Jordan  
Special Education  
Administrator



Erin Hardin  
Communications/Logistics

# Thank you



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